



# baywire

News and Updates from the Governing Board of  
the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

## BAYWIRE April - May 2013 Edition

### Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project Ribbon Cutting - Come Join Us on May 3rd!

The Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project is finally complete and we're ready to celebrate! Come join us on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 11 a.m. to noon for the formal ribbon cutting ceremony. Featured speakers include State Senator Fran Pavley, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, as well as heads of the many state and local agencies responsible for the restoration project.

The Audubon Society will be on hand to share the wonders of bird watching at the lagoon with some special guests during an interpretive landscape tour following the event.

To RSVP, please contact Suzanne Goode at [Suzanne.Goode@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Goode@parks.ca.gov).

### Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and Culver City Win LA County Green Leadership Award for Rain Barrel Program

The [Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission \(SMBRC\)](#), with partner [City of Culver City](#), was awarded the Los Angeles County Green Leadership Award for a Public Agency for their Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program (CCRH) program. The annual awards—recognizing outstanding and innovative energy conservation and environmental efforts by the private and public sectors—were presented yesterday by Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, Chairman during the weekly Board of Supervisors meeting.



*"We are excited to be selected for this program, the first of its kind in Culver City," states Damian Skinner, Environmental Programs & Operations Manager for the City of Culver City. "Community response has been really positive, and working with the SMBRC made implementing the program extremely easy and provided us the tools to continue the program in the future."*

CCRH was developed to involve Culver City residents and property owners in local urban water management, through

participating in best management practices on their properties. Normally, rainwater flowing over sidewalks, driveways and streets picks up pollutants (lead, copper, nitrate, phosphorous, bacteria) before flowing into storm drains and out to our rivers and beaches. Capturing rainwater from rooftops—before it becomes polluted runoff—protects our rivers and Santa Monica Bay and helps conserve water resources. Residents can use rainwater on their gardens and cut down on their water bills as well.

CCRH installed 396 rain barrels and redirected rainwater to gardens and lawns, while providing individualized landscape consultations to residents. CCRH also provided direct education to more than 1,000 residents at public events and through the distribution of literature online and in print. The rain barrels installed capture between 175,000 and 400,000 gallons of storm water that otherwise would have flowed into the Santa Monica Bay each year. The pilot program was also implemented to evaluate the overall cost and effectiveness of an ongoing rainwater-harvesting program.

Says Ivan Medel, SMBRC Field and Research Coordinator, and CCRH Program Manager, “It was amazing to see how excited residents were to contribute to the protection of our watershed.”

**Equation 1:** Calculates the Average Annual Runoff per downspout on an average Culver City Roof

|  |          |                                    |          |                           |          |   |          |   |
|--|----------|------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---|----------|---|
| <b>350</b>   | <b>x</b> | <b>13.4</b>                        | <b>x</b> | <b>0.623</b>              | <b>x</b> | <b>.05</b>                                  | <b>=</b> | <b>2776 gallons</b>                         |
| Avg. Catchment<br>Area per<br>downspout (sq.<br>ft.) |          | Avg. Annual<br>Precipitation (in.) |          | Conversion<br>coefficient |          | Loss to<br>evaporation<br>and<br>absorption |          | Avg. Annual Runoff per<br>rain Barrel (gal) |

The Green Leadership Awards press release is available at  
[http://file.lacounty.gov/green/cms1\\_193330.pdf](http://file.lacounty.gov/green/cms1_193330.pdf)

**PHOTO:** (L to R) Zev Yaroslavsky, Supervisor 3rd District; Guangyu Wang, SMBRC; Shelley Luce, SMBRC; Damian Skinner, Culver City; Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman, Supervisor 2nd District

### **Thank You and Goodbye, Mayor Mike Gin!**

For over six years, Redondo Beach Mayor Mike Gin has graciously served on the SMBRC Governing Board and as a Vice Chair on the Executive Committee. As his term as mayor is ending next month, Mayor Gin will be stepping down from the Governing Board. While we of course appreciate his dedication to the SMBRC’s mission and goals, perhaps it would be best to hear it in his own words:



*“It has been one of my greatest and most fulfilling honors in public service to have served as a member of the Governing Board and a Vice Chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC). For nearly 25 years, the SMBRC in partnership with many community organizations and partners has enhanced the health and well-being of Santa Monica Bay for future generations to enjoy. I have learned a great deal from all of my colleagues, SMBRC staff, and community members who I have had the privilege of working with during my service on the SMBRC. While all of us as community members may agree and disagree on specific issues from time to time, one basic principle has held constant: our shared desire to restore and enhance*

*the Santa Monica Bay to ensure that we protect this extraordinary natural resource for future generations to enjoy.*

*At the last Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) meeting, I was thrilled and surprised to receive a beautiful framed certificate from the SMBRC recognizing my years of service on the SMBRC Governing Board. On that certificate was one of my favorite quotes from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." This quote has been an inspiration to me throughout my public service career. As I leave the SMBRC Governing Board, I want to thank all of you for your service to our community and your care for the Santa Monica Bay. Each one of us can truly make a difference."*

Thank you and so long, Mayor Gin!

*(Photo: Mayor Gin receiving his certificate of appreciation from the SMBRC, flanked by Executive Director Shelley Luce and SMBRC Chair Mich  l O'Leary, Culver City Council Member).*

### **Bay Restoration Plan Update in Progress**

The public process for updating the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) is underway! The BRP (which is available online at [http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about\\_us/snbr\\_plan](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/snbr_plan)) is the comprehensive plan of action for protecting and restoring the Santa Monica Bay. It includes goals, objectives, and milestones that guide SMBRC restoration programs and projects in three priority areas: water quality, natural resources, and benefits & values to humans.

At the April Governing Board meeting, staff presented a summary of input received from members of the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) at the annual WAC meeting of February 13 and conducted a facilitated discussion on ten top issues of the BRP that were identified by staff as the focus of the updating process. These issues as listed below also reflect the main challenges that the SMBRC and its partners need to address over the next five to ten years.

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation
- Promotion of LID/green infrastructure for urban runoff pollution control
- Wetlands protection and restoration
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) monitoring and management
- Fishery management and sustainable seafood
- Climate change adaptation
- Storm water pollution source control
- Regional funding mechanism for storm water quality improvement
- Rocky reef/kelp habitat restoration
- Beneficial use and management of natural sediment

The discussion was lively, with many good ideas and suggestions brought to the table. Staff will take them into consideration as they draft specific BRP objectives and milestones during the next step, and will bring back a new draft for review and approval by the Governing Board this fall.

For more information, contact Guangyu Wang at [gwang@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gwang@waterboards.ca.gov).

### **Social Media IS Important and Fun!**

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

**Facebook:** LIKE us at “Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation”, or click [HERE](#).

**Twitter:** Follow us at @SMBRF

\*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow.

And did you know you can find a Clean Bay Restaurant certified by SMBRC on our site? Check out your local DINING option at

<http://www.santamonicabay.org/CleanRestaurants/cleanrestaurants.html>

### **2013 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates**

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

The remaining 2013 meeting dates are:

- June 20
- August 15
- October 17
- December 19

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information concerning any meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 310-922-2376 or by e-mail at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) . You may also visit our website at [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov) .

### **Check Out Our Website**

Please check out SMBRC’s website: [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov) . To streamline access to our Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the new website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC’s bodies.

The SMBRC’s partner, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, continues to support their existing website at [www.santamonicabay.org](http://www.santamonicabay.org) and includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) .